

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGRE-00
DODE-00 SP-02 DHA-05 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /042 W
-----128591 312046Z /41

R 311227Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3430

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 1110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, UR

SUBJ: ZNANIE SPEAKER SAYS MEAT SHORTAGE WILL CONTINUE

1. IN A RECENT (AUGUST 24) ZNANIE LECTURE ON THE SOVIET DOMESTIC SITUATION, USSR JOURNALIST UNION MEMBER DH. DH. KARIMOV PROVIDED FRANK ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT MEAT SITUATION AND TOLD AUDIENCE THAT MEAT SHORTAGES WOULD CONTINUE INTO 1980S. ACCORDING TO KARIMOV, DURING PAST SEVEN MONTHS, SOVIET LIVESTOCK BREEDERS HAVE SURPASSED THEIR PLAN AND INCREASED MEAT SUPPLIES TO 14.5-15 MILLION TONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT DEMAND AND MEAT SHORTAGES WILL CONTINUE. SPEAKER ADDED THAT TO PROVIDE SOVIET POPULATION WITH ENOUGH MEAT FOR ALL, SUPPLY OF 20 MILLION TONS IS NEEDED, BUT, BY END CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN, SOVIET STOCK WILL BE ONLY 16 MILLION TONS. THUS, KARIMOV CONCLUDED, TO FULLY SUPPLY SOVIET POPULATION WITH MEAT IS "DUTY OF NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN".

2. AUDIENCE ALSO WAS TOLD, IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL SITUATION, THAT:

--WHEAT PRODUCTION THIS YEAR WOULD REACH 225-230 MILLION TONS; SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION WILL BE 90-100 MILLION TONS WHICH WILL HELP TO COVER LAST YEAR'S SHORTFALL (GIVEN AS 10 MILLION TONS).

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--INVESTMENTS IN SOVIET AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES WENT UP 4 PERCENT IN PAST YEAR TO TOTAL OF 46 BILLION RUBLES. AVERAGE AGRICULTURAL SALARY HAS INCREASED BY 5 PERCENT TO 154 RUBLES A MONTH.

--ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF LENINGRAD AGRICULTURE IS IN PRIVATE

PLOTS. THESE, HOWEVER, PRODUCE 30 PERCENT OF AREA'S MEAT AND MILK AND 60 PERCENT OF ITS POTATOES.

--AGRICULTURAL SPARE PARTS DELIVERIES IN LENINGRAD AREA HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED IN THE PAST YEAR. DEAD TIME FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY NOW RUNS BETWEEN 10-12 PERCENT WHEREAS IT PREVIOUSLY WAS AROUND 30 PERCENT.

--OF 45 MILLION PENSIONERS IN THE SOVIET UNION, 12 MILLION LIVE ON COLLECTIVE FARMS.

3. COMMENT: FRANK TALK ABOUT MEAT SITUATION UNDOUBTELY ONLY SERVED TO CONFIRM LENINGRADERS' NATURAL INCLINATION TO EXPECT THE WORST. AT ANY RATE, NEWS THAT SHORTAGE WOULD CONTINUE WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT MURMUR BY AUDIENCE AND DID NOT EVEN ELICIT A QUESTION IN FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEAKERS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977084/aaaaacyu.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5c88fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1535795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZNANIE SPEAKER SAYS MEAT SHORTAGE WILL CONTINUE
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, UR, (KARIMOV, DH DH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c88fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009